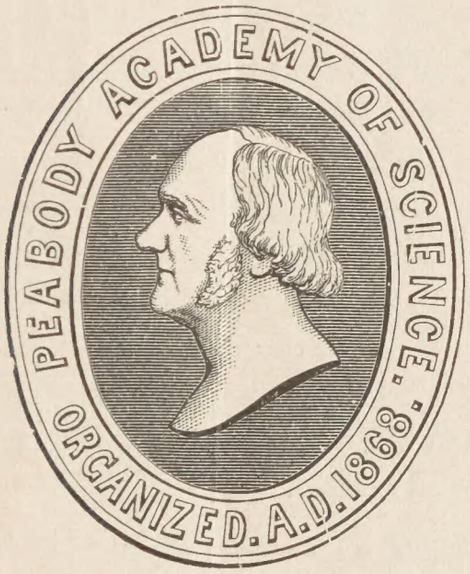
PEABODY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

CIRCULAR OF INFORMATION.



ORIGIN AND OBJECTS OF THE INSTITUTION.

ITS MUSEUM.

SALEM, MASS.
1895.

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1895

THE "Trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science" organized in 1868, having received funds by gift in 1867 from George Peabody, of London, by birth a son of Essex County, for the "Promotion of Science and Useful Knowledge in the County of Essex."

Under the instrument of trust, East India Marine Hall (erected by the East India Marine Society in 1824), was purchased and refitted, and the Museum of the East India Marine Society (begun in 1799) and the Natural History Collections of the Essex Institute (begun in 1834), received by the trustees as permanent deposits, were placed therein. To this foundation have been added many valuable collections since received by the trustees.

It is desired that the Academy shall benefit the residents of the remoter portions of the County as well as those in the immediate vicinity of Salem, although under the trust the Museum must be located in Salem and the work of the Academy largely carried on there. The arrangement of the Museum is intended to be *educational*, and not merely for the purpose of exhibiting curiosities. It is especially designed to aid the teachers of the County in connection with school work. The officers of the Museum will gladly assist teachers and classes in the examination of the collections, if notified beforehand of intended visits; and it is suggested that classes of twenty-five or less gain much more information than when the number is larger, and hence the desirability of visits by small classes.

The collections may be summarized as follows:

1. A nearly complete collection of the animals, and minerals and rocks of Essex County arranged in the cases at the northern end of the first hall. A collection of woods of the trees of Essex County and one of the pre-historic relics of the County in the gallery cases. A large collection of the dried plants of the County in cabinets in the lower rooms, which may be consulted by students upon application at the office.

2. A synoptical collection illustrating the animal kingdom from the lowest to the highest forms, arranged and labelled according to the text-books in common use in our schools and colleges. This collection is at the southern end of the hall, excepting the insects, a portion of which are arranged in the rail cases in the gallery. Letters upon the cases indicate the order in which it should be examined.

3. A small type collection of minerals illustrating the edition of Dana's Mineralogy used in our schools, and one of fossils illustrating the historical geology of the earth, from the oldest to the most recent formations, arranged in the central gallery cases. Also a collection of botanical specimens in the western gallery and a small collection of archæological objects from North America and Europe in the eastern gallery.

4. A collection, arranged by countries, of objects illustrating the every-day life, dress and religious customs, the implements of war and of domestic use, and objects of

art of the native races of China, Japan, India, Siam, Korea, Africa, Polynesia, North and South America, etc., arranged in the new East Hall. This Collection was begun in 1799 by the East India Marine Society and has had an uninterrupted existence since that date. It was greatly increased 1868 by the specimens received from the Essex Institute, and still larger additions have since been made by the Trustees of the Academy.

5. An historical collection of portraits of prominent Salem merchants, members and officers of the East India Marine Society, together with many interesting relics connected with the early social character of that institution, and models and pictures of Salem merchant vessels. These are preserved in accordance with a special agreement, in the new East Hall, and form an interesting memorial of the commercial history of Salem.

As far as possible all specimens in the museum are marked clearly with their names and the locality from which they were obtained. This avoids the necessity of a visitor's catalogue.

Cards giving the author's name, title and call number of books in the Salem Public Library containing information pertaining to various portions of the collections, will be found appended to many of the objects in the cases.

The Academy has published two volumes of memoirs and annual reports; it has conducted classes in botany, mineralogy, and zoölogy, and for several years held a summer school of biology. Lectures upon subjects connected with natural history and ethnology are given annually in Academy Hall, an audience room opened by the trustees in 1886.

The average number of visitors to the Museum has been over 50,200 annually during the past five years.

The officers of the Academy desire that the public shall receive every possible advantage consistent with the instrument of trust, and they hope that everyone able to do so will aid them by contributing toward the increase and improvement of the collections, which have almost wholly been received by gift. The work of the Academy is conducted and its museum maintained entirely from the trust funds; it has no other source of income. The annual expenses have increased with the growth of the museum and the work and usefulness of the institution could be greatly advanced by additions to its funds and income.

In answer to numerous inquiries: The Essex Institute (132 Essex Street) has a valuable collection of objects relating to the early history of New England, open free to the public; the frame of the first Puritan meeting house may be seen by applying at the office of the secretary of the Institute.

The Institute also has for gratuitous distribution a printed list of objects of historical interest in the city.

TRUSTEES.

WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT, *President,*

ABNER C. GOODELL, JR., *Secretary,* JOHN ROBINSON, *Treasurer,*

S. ENDICOTT PEABODY, GEORGE COGSWELL,

HENRY L. HIGGINSON, ELIHU THOMPSON.

OFFICERS.

EDWARD S. MORSE, *Director,*

JOHN ROBINSON, *Treasurer, in charge of the Museum.*

JOHN H. SEARS, *Curator, Mineralogy and Geology.*

Janitor, J. Russell Treadwell.

The publications of the Academy; The Salem guide, containing an historical sketch of the Museum, etc., may be obtained of the constable in the hall, who will also direct visitors where any special collections may be found. Those who desire information regarding the specimens, or in relation to scientific subjects, will please inquire at the office or request the constable to call some officer of the Academy.

The Museum is open during every week-day from 9 a. m. to 5 o'clock p. m., and on Sundays from 2 to 5 p. m.

FREE TO ALL.

The offices are on the lower floor of East India Marine Hall, rear rooms, 161 Essex Street,

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

BARRY & LUFKIN, PRINTERS, MUSEUM BUILDING, SALEM.